



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
502D AIR BASE WING
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO**



November 15, 2018

JBSA Hunting Program Panel Meeting Minutes

NAME		ORG, TITLE, ROLE	ATTENDED
Dayna Cramer		802 CES, Hunting Manager, Chair (Non-voting)	X
Archie Cooper		802 CES, Game Warden (Non-voting)	
1	Todd Bigs	Retired, Voting Member	X
2	Don Craig	Retired, Voting Member	X
3	Cathleen Dalton	DoD Civilian, Voting Member	X
4	Kenneth Drummond	DoD Civilian, Voting Member	X
5	David Hill	Retired, Voting Member	X
6	John Knox	Active Duty, Voting Member	X
7	Denny Shofner	Active Duty, Voting Member	X
8	Kenneth Snow	Active Duty, Voting Member	
9	Glenn Taplin	DoD Civilian/Retired, Voting Member	X
10	Tra Vick	Active Duty, Voting Member	X

*Official participation of RNGRC in these meetings requires approval from the 502 FSG. We are still awaiting this approval.

1. The meeting was called to order by Dayna Cramer at 1738.
2. Introductions of all present panel members.
3. Cramer restated the purposed of the panel and what should be expected.
 - a. The panel has been assembled to give the hunters a voice.
 - b. The panel shall work in the best interest of hunters, wildlife, and the ecosystem.
 - c. Anything discussed by the panel will be voted on before being taken to the Natural Resources Manager for a decision.
 - d. Decisions and implementation will come back to the panel in the form a minutes before official publishing by the Hunting Program Manager.
 - e. Minutes will be published after panel members have been given the opportunity to comment.
4. Cramer discussed the different moving parts that play a role in the program.
 - a. Under the Air Force hunting is not an MWR function. Additionally, MWR does not exist at JBSA as it is an Air Force lead joint base. The Natural Resources Office and the Rod n Gun Recreation Center are 2 separate organizations (502 CEG & 502 FSG, respectively) working together to run the hunting program here. Currently RNGRC serves as check in/out service no longer support on iSportsman due to politically driven permit price cuts.
 - b. In the Air Force, hunting programs fall under the Natural Resources Office. The Rod-n-Gun Recreation Center is not part of the Natural Resources Office, any requests for use or operations of the facility have to be directed to Benjamin Bustos, the RNGRC Manager. Both NR and RNGRC have to schedule through RFMSS and get approval to use any ranges, training sites, or training areas from a scheduler who sits at Fort Sam.
 - c. Additionally, the Natural Resources Office works with 2 separate safety offices, the Army Support Activity Safety Office and the 502 Air Base Wing Safety Office.

5. The main focus of this meeting is to discuss improvements to the hunting season schedule. Cramer opened the discussion with requests that had been received about allowing hunters to scout and set up earlier in the year.
 - a. Cramer explained that the WTD surveys are conducted in mid-August. If NR allows hunters to set up before the lottery drawing in September there will be a set number of stands but TAs may close early because there are not enough deer for each stand.
 - b. Taplin mentioned that when that was done before it was bad.
 - c. Hill stated that the main issue is with timing and the scouting could be opened at least a month before the lottery draw.
 - d. Taplin requested that the protocol for developing the quota numbers be published.
 - e. Knox requested that the INRMP or more specifically the Wildlife Management Plan be published, if one exists.
 - f. Taplin mentioned requesting that hunters submit photos of what they are seeing in their area, as this additional information may give a better picture about the WTD population.
 - Craig pulled Cramer aside later and mentioned that the hunters used to fill out a survey card about what they saw when they checked out of the field. *Survey forms are now available at RNGRC, but his data cannot be used to develop quotas.
 - g. Hill asked if the MLDP permit is under Conservation or Harvest Option. Hill specifically requested this information to see about extending the WTD season.
 - JBSA operates under the Conservation Option.
 - Cramer has already received approval to extend the WTD season 3 weeks. The season will not be extended further because of the effects on GP hunting and because prescribed burns are planned for February 2019.
 - h. Hill requested that NR consider opening quotas for hunters who have already filled their personal quota when the overall quota still has not been met.
 - Mentioned to NRM, is being considered for this season.

6. Shofner/Hill/Craig mentioned the idea of raising permit prices and bringing back the graduated scale.
 - a. Cramer stated that the price drop was politically driven and the graduated scale was found by the 502 ABW legal office to be out of compliance with DoDI 4715.03.
 - b. The discussion then turned to the different colors of money.
 - All permit sales are collected on iSportsman go directly back to the Natural Resources Office for wildlife habitat enhancement. RNGRC does not receive any funds from the sale of hunting permits.
 - NR is appropriated funding and staff is a mix of GS and contracted employees. GS employees are paid from the 502 CEG budget. Contracted employees are paid out of the Air Force's Central Environmental Quality budget.
 - The RNGRC functions using non-appropriated funds (funds that are generated from services or sales), but this does not include hunting permit sales. The money RNGRC makes from hunting is based solely off rentals of feeders, blinds, etc. and these funds do not go into the hunting program.
 - Any monies from citations go to the Department of the Treasury. We do not see these funds.
 - c. Several members of the panel mentioned raising the permit rates to allow for better Natural Resources Management. This was not voted on and needs to be discussed in further detail.

7. Craig/Dalton requested that GP areas be opened for WTD hunting when their WTD area(s) have been shut down. Mentioned potentially having maintained stands for WTD hunter use with a \$10 fee for use.
8. Vick requested that hunters be able to check in the night before. He mentioned this is done at other installations. Typically you get a call the next day if you don't turn in your permit and the 2nd time it happens you get suspended. Hunting staff stated that we would need folks to call-in as they are going to the field so we know they actually come out to hunt.
9. Communication: overall the panel appreciates the use of the website to distribute information but asked that JBSA work out more ways to communicate because not everyone checks the website.
 - a. For cancellations or closures we are now sending out email notifications, as well as, the website and Facebook notifications. For folks checked into areas being closed for training or safety concerns they receive a phone call. If they cannot be reached via phone staff members attempt to find them in person.
 - b. Major notices or requests for volunteers/information will go out in emails.
 - c. Panel mentioned that we need to communicate better on the lottery and that phone calls were not a great option for all hunters. Cramer agreed.

10. Votes:

- a. Opening scouting at least a month before the opening of the hunting season: 9/9
Approved by NRM. Expect next season
 - b. Publishing the Quota Protocol and the Wildlife Management Plan: 9/9
Requested, awaiting documents and/or approval to publish. INRMP is already a public document but is an excessively large file (703 pages to include appendices).
 - c. Extend the WTD season more than the 3 weeks already approved: 9/9
Not approved by NRM. ALL equipment must be removed from the field by 31 January 2019. We will be conducting prescribed fires at Bullis during the month of February to allow for the most flexibility in conducting the burns all stands and feeders will need to be removed before this effort.
 - d. Open GP areas for WTD hunting when a WTD hunters TA is closed: 9/9
Not approved for this season. NRM requests that panel focus on hunting program as a whole and not just WTD hunting.
 - e. Night before check-ins: 3/9 *Not taken to NRM.
 - f. How often and when to hold panel meetings: Monthly, at least during hunting season on Saturdays around lunch. *Approved by panel.
11. Topics for considerations/discussion at the next meeting.
 - a. If you get a buck older than 2.5 years you get a bonus buck
 - b. Pay to trap hogs
 - c. Weekend lotteries for premium hog hunts
 - d. Extension of check out hours
 - e. Night hunts
 - f. Lean to tree stands
 - g. Posting harvest logs with photos

12. Meeting concluded at 2000.

13. Additional notes: The Natural Resources Manager has agreed to attend the February Hunting Panel Meeting. This meeting will be a Question and Answer Session that will be published on iSportsman. All questions must be submitted in writing by 18 January 2019.

14. Next meeting: 5 January 2019, 1200. Panel members are welcome to bring lunch.
15. Minutes recorded by Dayna Cramer. Should you have any questions please contact her at dayna.a.cramer.civ@mail.mil.

DAYNA CRAMER
JBSA Hunting Program Manager
802 Civil Engineer Squadron